

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SINGAP 00620 061149Z

42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 COME-00 L-03 TRSE-00 STR-04

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NEA-10 AF-06 SP-02 IO-11 SS-15

NSC-05 /090 W

----- 084485

R 061045Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4524

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 0620

FOR EB/CBA/BP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD SN

SUBJECT: PIRACY OF US SOUND RECORDINGS

REF: (A) 75 STATE --6463, (B) 76 STATE 025553, (C) 73 SINGAPORE 4918,
(D) 73 STATE A-9648

SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE DESCRIBES CURRENT STATE OF TAPE PIRACY
PROBLEM IN SINGAPORE AND SUGGESTS THAT EMBASSY FEELS TO BE
APPROPRIATE ACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GENERAL COUNSEL OF RECOR-
DING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA CONCERNING PIRACY PROBLEM
IN SINGAPORE IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. THIS IS LONG-STANDING PROBLEM
(SEE REFS C AND D), CRUX OF WHICH IS GOS UNWILLINGNESS TO ENFORCE
EXISTING COPYRIGHT STATUTES. RECORDING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES
HERE FEEL EXISTING SINGAPORE LAWS WOULD BE ADEQUATE TO PROTECT
THEIR INTERESTS, IF ONLY ENFORCED.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SINGAP 00620 061149Z

2. TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DIFFERENT PIRATED CASSETTES ARE OPENLY DISPLAYED AND SOLD THROUGHOUT THE REPUBLIC. WHILE OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF TOTAL VOLUME OF TRADE IN ILLEGAL RECORDINGS NATURALLY ARE NOT AVAILABLE, INDUSTRY ESTIMATES RANGE FROM THREE TO FIVE MILLION CASSETTES ANNUALLY, WITH VALUE OF 7 \$10 TO US\$20 MILLION. MUCH OF REPERTORIE PIRATED IS US-OWNED, BUT EUROPEAN RECORDINGS ALSO POPULAR.

3.. PROBLEM IS, OF COURSE, NOT LIMITED TO SINGAPORE MARKET. SINGAPORE-PRODUCED PIRATED TAPES ARE RELIABLY REPORTED BEING EXPORTED TO MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA, EUROPE, AND AUSTRALIA. PIRATING IS ALSO WIDESPREAD IN MOST NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION: ANNUAL DIRECT COST IN ROYALTIES TO US RECORDING COMPANIES RESULTING FROM SINGAPORE RECORDING PIRACY IMPOSSIBLE TO CALCULATE, BUT PROBABLY NOT MUCH OVER US\$1 MILLION. THIS LOSS IS SIGNIFICANT, BUT GIVEN THE OVERALL SIZE OF US TRADE WITH SINGAPORE, WHICH IS US\$400 MILLION IN US FAVOR, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREMATURE AT THIS TIME TO THREATEN ANY MAJOR TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST GOS. MORE PRODUCTIVE PROCEDURE WOULD BE ONE OR COMBINATION OF FOLLOWING STEPS:
(A) NOTE OF FORMAL COMPLAINT FROM DEPARTMENT TO GOS EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, OUTLINING PROBLEM AND REQUESTING ACTION. NOTE COULD POINT OUT THAT TAPE PIRACY IS AN ANOMALY IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL FAVORABLE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. US HAS MADE EFFORTS TO BE RESPONSIBLE TO PARTICULAR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF SINGAPORE. RECENTLY, FOR EXAMPLE, US GSP CUSTOMS REGULATIONS WERE MODIFIED TO ACCOMODATE SINGAPORE'S ROLE AS AN ENTREPOT. WE WOULD HOPE FOR EQUAL RESPONSIVENESS FROM GOS ON MATTERS INVOLVING US ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

(B) SIMILAR NOTE FROM THIS EMBASSY TO GOS.

(C) JOINT APPROACH TO GOS BY US, UK, AUSTRALIA, NETHERLANDS, AND OTHER INTERESTED EMBASSIES IN SINGAPORE.

5. GIVEN PAST HISTORY OF GOS DISINTEREST IN THIS PROBLEM. LESSER MEASURES, SUCH AS FURTHER INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOS OFFICIALS OR RENEWED EFFORTS TO GET SINGAPORE'S ADHERENCE TO 1971 GENEVA CONVENTION FOR PROTECTION OF PROCEDURES OF PHONO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SINGAP 00620 061149Z

GRAMS, ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE FRUITFUL. FOR LONGER TERM,

6. CONSIDERATION MIGHT ALSO BE GIVEN TO EARLY NEGOTIATION OF A US/SINGAPORE TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROTECTION TREATY, WITH ADEQUATE PROVISIONS FOR PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/ COPYRIGHT. (UK AND SEVERAL OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SUCH A TREATY WITH SINGAPORE.)

7. AMBASSADOR TODAY HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PIRACY QUESTION
IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR SCHAEPMAN,
WHO INFORMED US HE BROUGHT MATTER UP WITH GOS ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THREE MONTHS AGO AND ON FEB. 4 SENT DIPLOMATIC NOTE ALONG LINES
PARA 4 ABOVE. IN VIEW OF THIS DUTCH ACTION, RECOMMEND US FOLLOW
UP WITH NOTES TO GOS IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND SINGAPORE ALONG
LINES RECOMMENDED PARA 4 (A) AND (B). TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE
THIS SHOULD BE DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE.
HOLDRIDGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, RECORDINGS, COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SINGAP00620
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760046-0242
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760274/aaaacmrd.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 25553, 76 SINGAPORE 4918
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PIRACY OF US SOUND RECORDINGS
TAGS: ETRD, SN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006